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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Droit à l'energie SOS futur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-32293 (E) 150506

Statement

Although energy is not specifically mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals, all agree that at least six of the Goals cannot be reached without access to energy, a crucial factor for development and growth. No energy means no water for drinking or sanitation, and difficulties in terms of access to education, health and food safety.

In developing, emerging or industrialized countries, universal access to energy or increased energy intensity helps to improve economic activity and therefore employment.

Employment is affected in several ways:

- The arrival of energy in a geographical area contributes to reducing migratory flows and encouraging local development, thereby avoiding depopulation of rural areas and the creation of suburban areas in which unemployment becomes endemic. The impact is dual: reduced pressure on large urban areas, while settling people in natural employment areas.
- The development of economic activity caused by the arrival of energy in a region initially generates employment in small businesses or local crafts. This very often releases women and children from the tasks of seeking firewood and water supplies. More time is then available for economic activity or education in the case of children. And education means future employment.
- Employment created in the energy production sector itself, particularly the electricity sector, contributes to the technological development of the countries and regions concerned through the technical expertise and know-how required for these sectors. If the arrival of energy is accompanied by intelligent transfer of technology and appropriate training by the companies and countries with understanding of the technologies in question, this will create local expertise in the field.
- Finally, the development of public-private partnerships, which we propose, with endorsement of companies in exchange for ethical undertakings, is a win-win situation for employment: this creates activity and qualified employment in developing countries, while also allowing companies in industrialised countries to benefit from a growth relay enabling them to develop employment in their country of origin.

With its network of 220 member structures in 70 countries, our organisation proposes to make universal access to energy an essential requirement and has drafted an Action Plan for universal access to energy, with three main focuses: the Millennium Development Goals, including universal access to energy, public-private partnerships, and the involvement of civil society at all stages of development.

In concrete terms, one example is our Nigerian association's support for the Kandadji dam in Niger which, if it goes ahead, will provide an independent electricity supply for the country, economic development, which is currently held back by the inability to meet basic requirements, and an end to food shortages through the implementation of an irrigation programme.

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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-32553 (E) 120506

Statement

CATA welcomes the thematic focus on employment, decent work, and sustainable development for the upcoming 2006 High Level and Coordination Segments of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the fact that ECOSOC has recognized the crucial importance of ensuring the labour and human rights of workers as a key factor in achieving sustainable development.

CATA therefore submits the following recommendations to ECOSOC, in order to inform the process leading towards the General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006:

1. **Receiving States should recognize the contribution to their economies of migrant workers by granting such workers the opportunity to remain with regular status and to integrate into Society, if that is their wish.** So-called "temporary migration" programs, while often touted as mutually beneficial, in fact allow receiving states to enjoy a reliable supply of cheap labour while denying those workers the full range of rights, social services, and opportunities that full-time residents have access to. In addition, temporary migration programs require workers to spend long and repeated periods of time separated from their families, and almost invariably result in both gender and age-based discrimination in hiring practices.

2. **Member states should grant to immigrant and migrant workers, including irregular immigrants, the same rights afforded to other workers, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Conventions of the International Labour Organisation.** Migrant and immigrant workers around the world are rarely afforded the same rights under the law as other workers, which create an incentive for employers to seek out immigrants for hire, in particular those without regular status. This in turn undermines the legal rights of non-immigrant workers by forcing them into a *de facto* position of competition with the immigrant workforce.

3. **Member states, in particular industrialized nations of the global North ("receiving states"), should ratify the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*.** The treaty cannot provide meaningful benefit to migrant workers and their families until it is ratified by those industrialized states that receive the majority of migrants worldwide.

4. **Member states should reduce the root causes of worldwide migration by eliminating discriminatory trade and economic policies in the industrialized North.** It is clear that trade liberalization between states of vastly different wealth does not lead towards sustainable development. Furthermore, the rhetoric of trade liberalization and free markets often does not match policy: Agricultural subsidies in the global North continue to disrupt local, agriculture-based economies in poor nations, and trade agreements tend to allow for the free flow of goods, capital, and profits across borders, but not the free flow of people (i.e. labour). The economic desperation resulting directly and indirectly from such economic policies exacerbates the irregular migration that receiving states so regularly criticize.

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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-32541 (E) 110506

Statement

Soroptimist International recognises that women suffer the effects of poverty more profoundly than men.

Soroptimist International fully supports the statements in reference to poverty contained in the Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and reconfirmed at the 2005 Commission on the Status of Women; the Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium Development Goals which seek to end extreme poverty by 2015.

Soroptimist International believes that the Millennium Development Goals are not achievable without a focus on ending the poverty of women.

The causes of poverty are complex and influenced by national and international situations of economy, war, trade, natural disasters debt, migration, health care and a multitude of social issues. Soroptimist International recognises that the solutions to eradicating poverty are equally complex and that, to be successful, all issues contributing to poverty must be addressed.

To end the poverty of women Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- Uphold the promises made at the 2000 United Nation's Millennium Summit and fulfil the commitments to achieve the eight Millennium Goals by 2015
- Ensure that women have equal access to resources, wealth and opportunities
- Empower impoverished women by including them in the review, revision and creation of governmental anti-poverty policies
- Promote economic opportunities for women
- Guarantee access to primary education for all girls
- Develop education programmes for women including literacy, job training, life skills and building self-confidence
- Make financial resources such as bank loans and savings schemes available to women
- Enable women to obtain affordable housing, have access to land and ensure inheritance rights
- Guarantee adequate and equal access to health care, recognising the special health needs of women including HIV/AIDS
- Ensure the human rights of all women, including migrants and ensure their protection against violence and exploitation
- Recognise and support the special needs of the young, elderly and disabled and provide education and work programmes to address their special needs

- Value the work of women as caregivers to children, the elderly, disabled and sick and distribute resources accordingly

- Encourage gender-based research into the root causes and solutions to poverty, disseminate the results and act on the recommendations

- Work with the United Nations, other governments and non-governmental organisations to ensure the success of the Millennium Development Goals.

For its part Soroptimist International will continue to work for the empowerment of women in all areas where women are in poverty or at risk of succumbing to lives of poverty and will co-operate with other non-governmental and voluntary organisations in monitoring progress on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by International Indian Treaty Council, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

06-32534 (E) 120506

Statement

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) has advocated for over 30 years in the international arena for the sovereignty and self-determination of indigenous peoples, and the recognition and protection of indigenous rights, treaties, traditional cultures and sacred lands.

We welcome the call for stronger promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for States accountability in their observance, as in the resolution by which the General Assembly established the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly (General Assembly resolution 60/251). We appreciate that in calling for this reform, the Secretary-General has emphasized the need to "mainstream" human rights, along with development and security, as one of three principal goals of the United Nations (see A/59/2005/Add.3, annex, para. 1).

In this light, we address the themes for the 2006 High-Level Segment and Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council: "Creating an environment at the national and international levels, conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development"; and "Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger".

We also note the Heads of State and Government declaration at the 2005 World Summit:

> "We strongly support a fair globalization and resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, a central objective of our national and international macro-economic policies as well as poverty reduction strategies. These measures should also encompass the elimination of child labour. We also resolve to protect the human rights of workers".[1]

While sharing concerns for eradicating poverty and protecting human rights of workers, especially children, IITC does not agree that greater participation in globalization will resolve these concerns. For indigenous peoples, jobs as factory or plantation workers in a globalized economy are not the solution to poverty, hunger or the violation of their human rights. Instead, indigenous peoples and their lands continue to be the fodder that feeds the insatiable transnational hunger for natural resources and cheap labour, exacerbating poverty, accelerating land loss and undermining food security.

This model omits any reference to the rights of those who chose to maintain traditional subsistence ways of life which have sustained them since time immemorial. Human rights and eradication of poverty for indigenous peoples can only be achieved in the context of their collective well-being, based on the viability of their traditional cultures and languages, communities' health and the strength of their relationship to their traditional lands. Indicators of well-being must be defined by indigenous peoples themselves as a fundamental aspect of their self-determination.

[1] See http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2006/hls2006/preparatory.html.

We therefore welcome the current efforts of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to develop indicators of well-being for indigenous peoples. We call upon ECOSOC and the UN system, as well as States, agencies and development institutions to fully recognize and take into account the results of this groundbreaking effort as an alternative to definitions of poverty and development based on the needs of the global economy and the multinational corporations.